

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 319

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to commend and congratulate TriStar Health for being recognized by the American Cancer Society for its efforts in colorectal cancer prevention.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly recognize those estimable medical institutions that strive to go beyond simply meeting the basic needs of those they serve, in an effort to improve the quality of life for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, TriStar Health, a leader in the healthcare industry in Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky, was recently recognized by the American Cancer Society (ACS) for partnering with organizations to provide colorectal cancer screenings, thereby ensuring that screenings are readily accessible to more individuals in the communities that TriStar Health serves; and

WHEREAS, the ACS, a global grassroots force of two million volunteers, is the largest voluntary health organization in the nation and has significantly contributed to a twenty-five percent decline in the cancer death rate in the U.S. since 1991, driven by less smoking, better treatments, and earlier detection; and

WHEREAS, this year alone, an estimated 3,100 Tennesseans will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer is one of the most successfully treated cancers if diagnosed early, yet it typically does not have symptoms in its early stages, making preventative screening essential to successful treatment; and

WHEREAS, through colorectal cancer screenings, doctors can find and remove otherwise undetectable polyps in the colon before they become cancerous; and

WHEREAS, TriStar Health and its Workplace Partners program have brought colorectal cancer screenings into their workplace prevention program, reaching employees of seventeen

Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky organizations; more than 2,000 individuals were informed of the importance of preventive colorectal screening, of which 183 received a stool test and 111 completed a colonoscopy; and

WHEREAS, TriStar is one of hundreds of groups nationwide with a shared goal of increasing the rate of regular colorectal cancer screening to eighty percent among adults aged fifty or older by 2018; and

WHEREAS, with thirteen hospitals, twelve emergency rooms, twenty-one imaging locations, ten CareNow Urgent Care centers, and fifty-nine TriStar Medical Group provider office locations and related care areas, the TriStar Health system is the largest, most comprehensive healthcare provider in Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky, caring for over 430,000 patients and receiving nearly 453,000 emergency room visits annually; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its Workplace Partners program, TriStar Health remains at the forefront of cancer treatment through the Sarah Cannon Cancer Institute, which offers a full range of services for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer, as well as comprehensive rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, one of the nation's leading providers of healthcare services, TriStar Health is leading the charge in providing colorectal preventive care for individuals throughout Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky, and it is fitting that the organization be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend TriStar Health for its outstanding work in the fight against colorectal cancer, congratulate the organization on its recognition by the American Cancer Society, and extend our best wishes for much continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.